

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SEOUL 07805 220900Z

17

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 A-01

OPR-01 OC-01 CCO-00 SY-04 FBO-02 USSS-00 /060 W

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O R 220833Z NOV 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7102

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 7805

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PINS, KS

SUBJ: MARYKNOLL FATHER AND KOREAN DEMONSTRATORS STAGE  
SIT-IN AT POLICE STATION

REF: A. SEOUL 7663 B. SEOUL 7781

1. MARYKNOLL FATHER JAMES SINNOTT AND KOREAN WOMEN  
DEMONSTRATORS WHO HAD BEEN ARRESTED DURING BRIEF NOV 21  
DEMONSTRATION AT EMBASSY (REFTEL), REFUSED ACCEPT  
RELEASE EARLY AFTERNOON AND STAGED SIT-IN AT CHONG-NO  
POLICE STATION UNTIL 2230, WHEN THEY WERE FINALLY  
PERSUADED BY TWO MARYKNOLL PRIESTS TO GO HOME.

2. UNDER WATCHFUL EYE OF POLICE AND PRESS, GROUP  
INSISTED ON REMAINING AT STATION IN ORDER TO DRAW  
NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL ATTENTION TO THEIR CAUSE.  
DURING AFTERNOON THEY BEGAN FORMULATING VARIOUS  
DEMANDS IN RETURN FOR DEPARTURE FROM POLICE STATION,  
BEGINNING WITH RELEASE OF THEIR HUSBANDS AND SONS  
FROM PRISON. LATER THEY CHANGED TO REQUEST FOR  
MEETING WITH SECSTATE KISSINGER OR SENIOR MEMBER  
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PAGE 02 SEOUL 07805 220900Z

OF US PRESIDENTIAL PARTY.

3. POLICE, HAVING ORDERS NOT TO MISHANDLE PROTESTERS OR FATHER SINNOTT CALLED EMBASSY TO REQUEST HELP IN PERSUADING SINNOTT TO LEAD WOMEN FROM PREMISES. EMBASSY SOUGHT TO CONTACT MARYKNOLL SUPERIOR FATHER CORCORAN OR OTHER SENIOR MEMBER OF ORDER, BUT WAS UNSUCCESSFUL DUE TO ABSENCE OF MOST SENIOR CATHOLIC CLERGY AT SPECIAL CEREMONY IN SUWON.

4. IN RESPONSE TO EMBASSY CALL, ABOUT 2000 HOURS, FELLOW MARYKNOLL FATHER AGREED TO VISIT POLICE STATION AND PERSUADE FATHER SINNOTT TO LEAVE. HE REPORTED FATHER SINNOTT IN DISTRAUGHT STATE, HAVING SPENT PRECEEDING 48 HOURS WITH GROUP OF APPARENTLY DESPERATE AND NEARLY HYSTERICAL DEMONSTRATORS. FATHER SINNOTT INSISTED THAT HE COULD NOT ABANDON WOMEN AS LONG AS THEY WANTED TO REMAIN. FATHER THEN CONVEYED REQUEST OF DEMONSTRATORS' TO EMBOFF AS CONDITION FOR LEAVING STATION.

5. EMBASSY REPLIED THAT GROUP'S PROBLEM WAS WITH ROKG NOT USG AND THAT MEETING WITH KOREAN NATIONALS BY MEMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL PRTY WOULD NOT BE POSSIBLE. HOWEVER, IN RESPONSE TO QUESTION BY FATHER SINNOTT, EMBASSY CONFIRMED THAT REQUEST OF AMERICAN MISSIONARY GROUP TO MEET WITH MEMBER OF PRESIDENTIAL PARTY HAD BEEN PASSED ON.

6. AT THIS POINT, FATHER CORCORAN ARRIVED AND AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION WITH BOTH POLICE AND FATHER SINNOTT PERSUADED ALL TO LEAVE. FATHER SINNOTT WAS THEN TAKEN TO MARYKNOLL HOUSE.  
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## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PINT, PINS, KS, US, (SINNOTT, JAMES)  
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